

No record of Hunt in Dallas, CIA director says

By JOE TRENTO
and JACQUI POWERS

CIA Director Stansfield Turner yesterday denied the existence of a memo putting E. Howard Hunt in Dallas, Texas, the day President John F. Kennedy was killed there.

Turner, in Dallas to speak to a Veterans of Foreign Wars convention, made the statement in response to reporters' questions about a story in the Sunday News Journal that said a secret memorandum placed Hunt in Dallas and showed that top agency officials attempted to cover up his presence there.

Turner said, however, that it was "always possible" the memo may have been taken out of CIA files. He said that was "highly unlikely" because of the numerous copies usually made of such memos.

The memo, according to CIA sources, was initialed by former CIA Director Richard M. Helms and Counter Intelligence Chief James J. Angleton.

The story said the memo discussed Hunt's presence in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963, the day of the assassination, and how it could be kept from the public.

Hunt, a 21-year CIA member and convicted Watergate burglar, has been linked to Dallas before by assassination theorists and is currently involved in a lawsuit with Alan Webberman, an author who allegedly said Hunt was in a photograph taken in Dallas on the day of the assassination.

Hunt denied to the Sunday News Journal that he had been in Dallas. He also told the paper he had not been in Mexico since 1961.

However, CIA sources insist

that Hunt was acting Chief of Station in Mexico City in the weeks prior to the Kennedy shooting.

Accused Kennedy assassin Lee Harvey Oswald visited Mexico City in September and October 1963, according to the Warren Commission report.

Another possible link between Hunt and Oswald was published by the Dallas Morning News in 1975. A letter the paper said it has authenticated as Lee Harvey Oswald's handwriting was obtained through sources in Mexico City and passed on to reporter Earl Golz.

The letter, to a "Mr. Hunt" in Mexico, as dated November 8, 1963, two weeks before Kennedy's death.

Oswald purportedly said in the letter:

"Dear Mr. Hunt,

"I would like information concerning my position. I am asking only for information.

"I am suggesting that we discuss the matter fully before any steps are taken by me or anyone else.

Sincerely,

Lee Harvey Oswald (signed)"

Golz said he obtained the letter through a Texas Assassination buff who was dissatisfied about the FBI's lack of interest in it. "The buff, Penn Jones . . . he gave it to the FBI a year before and never heard from them. I figured it might have been H. L. Hunt (the late Texas billionaire) after I questioned some of his friends. I guess they called the FBI and then the FBI called me," Golz said.

Golz said that three handwriting experts authenticated the letter.

Hunt had refused to talk to Golz about the letter. He told The Morning News he was "sick of this assassination stuff."

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